

PATENT
2809-0123P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Naoya ICHIKAWA Conf.: 5132
Appl. No.: 09/986,374 Group: 1711
Filed: November 8, 2001 Examiner: N. Nutter
For: METHOD OF PREPARING LOW ALLERGIC
NATURAL RUBBER LATEX AND DEPROTEINIZED
NATURAL RUBBER LATEX AND LOW ALLERGIC
NATURAL RUBBER AND DEPROTEINIZED
NATURAL RUBBER

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

February 24, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated January 29, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Pending claims 1-25 of the present application have been subjected to a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Group I -- claims 1-9 directed to a first method for preparing a natural rubber latex;

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Group II -- claims 10-17 directed to a second method for preparing a natural rubber latex;

Group III -- claims 18-21 directed to a natural rubber; and

Group IV -- claims 22-25 directed to a natural rubber.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group III, claims 18-21.

The above-noted Restriction Requirement is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the subject matter of the presently withdrawn product claims of Group IV (i.e. claims 22-25) significantly overlaps with that of the elected subject matter of the claims of Group III. It is additionally submitted that the preparation methods recited in the claims of presently withdrawn Groups I and II (i.e. claims 1-17) also significantly overlap with that of the elected subject matter of the claims of Group III. In view of the overlapping subject matter, it is submitted that there is no significant burden placed on the Examiner to examine all of the claims of the present application such that the Requirement should be withdrawn.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

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